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Canada

DEPARTMENT OF MANPOWER AND IMMIGRATION

OTTAWA

EDUCATION

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Education in Canada, unlike many countries, is not regulated by the central (federal) government. From the elementary to the university level, it is under the jurisdiction of the 10 provincial governments which make up the Canadian Confederation. The federal government is responsible for education only in the Northwest Territories and the Yukon Territory. Education is compulsory in Canada for all children from the age of six to 14 or 16, depending on the province where they live. Except in private and independent schools, education and text books are free up to the end of the secondary system, being financed by local property tax and provincial government grants. Most schools have mixed classes of boys and girls. Classes at all levels begin in September, but university students finish in April or May and average four months of vacation. Elementary and secondary schools close during July and August.

Immigrants wishing to enrol their children for the beginning of a school year in September should plan to arrive in Canada at least a week before. This will give them sufficient time to register their children. School records and certificates should be translated into English or French according to the school system they intend to enter.

In Quebec and Newfoundland, elementary and secondary schools are usually divided along denominational lines. In Quebec, such schools are administered by either Catholic or Protestant school boards. Under Catholic school boards the majority of schools

conduct classes in French, although there are some Catholic schools where classes are also taught in English. Protestant schools use English as the language of instruction. Quebec has free post-secondary schooling of two to three years in colleges of general and vocational education. These are called C.E.G.E.P.'s (Collège d'enseignement général et professionnel) and are similar to Community Colleges in the other provinces. They are co-educational and students have only to pay for their text books. These schools offer specialized training for students who will work in technical and commercial occupations and for those who plan to enter university.

PRE-SCHOOL FACILITIES

There are day nurseries in most major cities where pre-school age children of two to five can spend the day or half the day while their mothers work. Day nurseries are not as common in Canada as in other countries, but their number increases each year. Nurseries are operated by municipalities or privately and fees and regulations vary widely.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Elementary, or public schools as they are called in most provinces, have eight grades. Children usually start in kindergarten when they are four or five and complete the elementary grades when they are 12 to 14. In 1970 there were 3,930,540 children in elementary schools.

SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Secondary schools cover the formative years between elementary school and university or technical school and prepare the student for his vocation. There are three, four or five grades, depending on the province, leading to junior or senior matriculation upon leaving school. Secondary schools, also called high schools, offer two types of courses. One leads to higher education, necessitating several more years of study, and the other provides a technical or commercial background for those whose formal education will cease at the secondary level. In 1970 there were 1,766,890 students attending 17,245 secondary schools.

PRIVATE SCHOOLS

There are more than 1,200 private elementary and secondary schools in Canada, attended by less than four per cent of the student population. Private secondary schools generally emphasize preparation for university. Tuition, including residence at such schools, may amount to over \$2,300. The parents of non-resident pupils can expect to pay up to \$1,300 a year.

UNIVERSITIES

There are 216 universities and colleges in Canada with a total enrolment of 306,400. Depending on the province, admission requirements are either a junior or senior high school leaving certificate. The admission of students from outside Canada is decided solely by the university. As a general rule, universities treat equivalent certificates from other countries as qualification for entrance. For admission into an undergraduate program of studies, both foreign and Canadian students are required by most Canadian universities to take a standardized entrance examination to determine a student's scholastic achievement and language aptitude.

Attendance at a Canadian university is expensive. Annual tuition fees range from \$450 to \$900 and living accommodation (room and board) can bring the cost up by another \$1,200 to \$1,500 a year. Since the university year lasts eight months, many students work at summer jobs to earn their tuition. Also the federal government makes loans to students to assist in meeting costs. A student may

borrow up to \$1,000 a year for five years, interest free until graduation. After graduation it becomes repayable at 5¾ per cent interest over a period of five to 10 years. To be eligible, one must be a Canadian citizen or have landed immigrant status and at least one year of residence in the province of the university; the applicant must also intend to remain in Canada after graduation. Having one of its own, the province of Quebec does not participate in the national loans plan. Information on the Quebec plan may be obtained from the Student Aid Services, Department of Education, Government of Quebec.

TECHNICAL AND VOCATIONAL EDUCATION

The rapid industrial growth of Canada requires an increasing number of highly skilled workers. To help meet this demand, there are more than 800 secondary schools which offer technical and vocational courses for both teen-age students who do not intend to go to university and adults who wish to upgrade their skills or learn new ones. There are also some 65 institutes of technology (community colleges) which offer more extensive courses, ranging from one to four years, with a high school leaving certificate or the equivalent as the minimum qualification for entrance. Graduates from these institutions fall between university-trained scientific personnel and skilled workers. The institutes give courses in such fields as drafting, surveying, tool making, accountancy and commercial art, among many others. Fees average about \$200 a year. Nursing education in Canada is provided in post-secondary schools of nursing attached to the larger hospitals, or to universities.

APPRENTICESHIP

Apprenticeship training plays an important role in Canadian education. It consists essentially of a combination of organized on-the-job experience and classroom instruction in a technical secondary school. The period of apprenticeship is usually four years, although, depending on the province and the trade, it may vary from two to five years. The trades cover building, motor vehicle repair, carpentry, plumbing and a variety of others. The minimum age requirement is 16. Educational requirements vary with the province: all, however, require two or more

years of secondary education. Possession of a journeyman certificate does not automatically guarantee admission to the unions.

Immigrants with apprenticeship documents should have these translated into French or English. The number of years of apprenticeship and experience should be shown.

FEDERAL AID TO TECHNICAL AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING

Although the primary responsibility for education lies with the provinces, the federal government provides massive financial assistance to help train more young Canadians in technical and vocational schools and to help the adult work-force upgrade its skills. This assistance takes the form of capital grants to the provinces to enable them to build technical and vocational school facilities, free tuition and in some cases living allowances to students in training, and assistance to industry to retrain its own workers.

Under the Canada Manpower Training Program, the Department of Manpower and Immigration places unemployed or under-employed workers in training courses when this will help them to increase their earnings or employability. It also pays living allowances to adult students who could not otherwise support themselves and their families while going to school. Assistance is also provided to apprentices under the same plan.

Another Canada Manpower Program provides financial help to adult Canadians who must move from one area of the country to another to find continuing employment.

Immigrants are eligible for training or mobility assistance in the same way as any other Canadian. If an immigrant is unable to find useful employment in his own profession and is eligible, there may be an opportunity to enter a training program at government expense. Immigrants also are eligible for financial help to move from one area of Canada to another, if this is essential in finding suitable employment.

LANGUAGE TRAINING

Language training courses for new Canadians are offered in most localities in Canada, either on a full-time or part-time basis. Night school courses are organized in most cities by local educational authorities or immigrant aid groups.

Immigrant workers who require intensive language training before they can find employment in their trade or profession, may be referred to language classes full-time, at government expense. For those eligible, tuition and living allowances are paid under the Canada Manpower Training Program mentioned above.

ADULT EDUCATION

In addition to the training already mentioned, many opportunities are provided for further academic, technical or cultural education for adults. More than three million Canadians attend regular classes in secondary and post-secondary schools to upgrade or advance their education. Many adults attend university level classes in the evening, for their own enjoyment, or with the intention of eventually obtaining a degree or in order to qualify for Canadian standards.

